

✓ IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please enter into the application the attached substitute specification, which is enclosed in both a clean and marked-up version.

✓ IN THE CLAIMS:

✓ Please cancel claims 1-17 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and add the following new claims:

18. (New) Brush holding apparatus for at least one carbon brush comprising a support plate including at least one brush guide, a spring element constructed and arranged for urging a carbon brush having a longitudinal axis mounted in the at least one brush guide in a direction towards a commutator or slip ring, and a retaining element mounted to the base plate adjacent to the at least one brush guide and including means for retaining the carbon brush in a retracted position against a force exerted by the spring element,

wherein the retaining element is slidably supported by the base plate in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of a carbon brush mounted in the brush guide, whereby the retaining element is movable between a first position in which the carbon brush may be retained by the retaining element, and

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a second position in which the carbon brush may be released by the retaining element.

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19. (New) Apparatus in accordance with claim 18, additionally comprising a removable cover for the base plate including means to cause the retaining element to become disengaged from the carbon brush when the cover is mounted on the base plate.

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20. (New) Apparatus in accordance with claim 18, wherein the base plate includes a guide substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis which slidably receives the retaining element, the retaining element being supported by a spring element against the base plate.

21. (New) Apparatus in accordance with claim 20, wherein the spring element is constructed and arranged for exerting a force against the retaining element towards a carbon brush mounted in the brush holder.

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22. (New) Apparatus in accordance with claim 18, wherein the retaining element comprises a pin or cylindrical extension on a side thereof that faces a carbon brush mounted in the brush holder, which, upon retraction of the carbon brush, becomes engaged in a recess in the carbon brush, in the manner of a pocket hole.

23. (New) Apparatus in accordance with claim 22, wherein upon engagement of the pin of the retaining element in the recess in a carbon brush, an adjustment force created by

the spring element against the carbon brush causes the pin to become wedged in the recess.

24. (New) Apparatus in accordance with claim 23, wherein the retaining element comprises a first, outer section that runs along a side wall that extends outwardly from a base of the base plate and runs around its circumference, with the first section crossing over into a center section that runs perpendicular to the first section, from which the extension extends, and from which, on an opposite side, a second section extends, which fits into the guide which extends outwardly from the base.

25. (New) Apparatus in accordance with claim 24, wherein the guide is formed by two parallel, wall-like partitions.

26. (New) Apparatus in accordance with claim 25, wherein outer surfaces of the retaining element include lengthwise depressions into which protrusions from the partitions become engaged.

27. (New) Apparatus in accordance with claim 24, wherein the spring element is positioned within the guide and is supported against the base.

28. (New) Base plate for at least one carbon brush comprising at least one brush guide,

the brush guide comprising a U-shaped metal element having a center leg extending along a top wall of a carbon

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brush mounted in the at least one brush guide and lateral legs extending perpendicular to the center leg along side walls of a carbon brush mounted in the brush guide, the lateral legs ending in outer sections penetrating a ground wall of the base plate or an intermediate wall extending parallel to the ground wall, and being attached to a surface of the ground wall or intermediate wall, running opposite to the brush guide.

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29. (New) Base plate in accordance with claim 28, wherein the outer sections extend at least partially parallel to the ground or intermediate wall.

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30. (New) Base plate in accordance with claim 28, wherein the outer sections comprise a first portion that extends along the base or partition and a second portion which extends through the base or partition.

31. (New) Base plate in accordance with claim 28, further comprising a plate-like metal element extending between the carbon brush and the base plate or intermediate wall, the carbon brush being slidable along said metal element,

wherein said metal element is connected to the U-shaped metal element and/or is penetrated by an outer section thereof.

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32. (New) Base plate in accordance with Claim 31, wherein the outer sections of the lateral legs are fastened to the base plate or the intermediate wall that faces away from a carbon brush mounted in the brush holder.